

10/018659

JC18 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 DEC 2001

2640-102
EAF:JMS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
)
Christer ÅSLUND) Examiner: Unassigned
)
Serial No.:)
) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: Herewith)

For: A METHOD FOR SINTERING A CARBON STEEL PART USING A
HYDROCOLLOID BINDER AS CARBON SOURCE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,
please make the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 3-6 as follows:

3 (Amended). A method according to claim 1, characterised in
that the agglomerated powder in addition comprises fine-grained
graphite powder.

4 (Amended). A method according to claim 1, characterised in
that the heating at 450-650°C takes place under a protective
atmosphere to prevent oxidation.

5 (Amended). A method according to claim 1, characterised
in that the heating at 450-650°C takes place under an atmosphere
which allows part of the carbon to be removed.

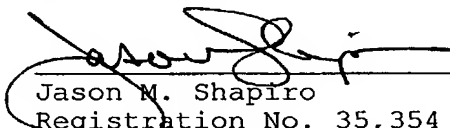
6 (Amended). Structural steel part of high density and high strength, characterised in being prepared by a method according to claim 1.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked-up copy of each rewritten claim showing all changes relative to the previous version of the claim is attached to this amendment.

REMARKS

The above amendments are being made to delete multiple dependencies in the claims. The application should now be in condition for early action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version to show changes made

3 (Amended). A method according to claim [1 or 2] 1, characterised in that the agglomerated powder in addition comprises fine-grained graphite powder.

4 (Amended). A method according to [any of claims 1-3] claim 1, characterised in that the heating at 450-650°C takes place under a protective atmosphere to prevent oxidation.

5 (Amended). A method according to [any of claims 1-4] claim 1, characterised in that the heating at 450-650°C takes place under an atmosphere which allows part of the carbon to be removed.

6 (Amended). Structural steel part of high density and high strength, characterised in being prepared by a method according to claim 1 [any of claims 1-5].

2640-102.pre